

**Spatial and Social Changes in Alun-Alun Semarang 1967-1972 as a Learning Resource**Risa Andi Arianto<sup>1</sup>**Abstract**

Semarang Square changed by adding commercial buildings such as markets and markets, including Yaik Johar, who took land from Semarang Square, which caused many factors. The government played a role in climate policy and the creation, in addition to other factors, such as the role of the party in power, impact orientation of development, and modernization of traditional markets.

**Keywords:** *Square, spatial, social*

**Introduction**

The square is a large courtyard in front of the palace. In the past, these two places had a very close relationship. The square is also interpreted as a field that functions as a place for war training or fighting by soldiers. The Semarang Square area was central, with the Blenduk church and government offices as the center. Why church? At that time, the center of government in Europe was the church and its governor. The church is involved in government and vice versa. Kota Lama previously had a vital role in spatial management, including the position of the town square, which was at the northeastern end of Jl Bojong (now Jl. Pemuda) near the Hotel du Pavillon (now Hotel Dibyapuri) and had existed since the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 16th century. 17th, the surrounding conditions were not orderly except for the pavilion building. Only in the 18th and 19th centuries, when Europeans began to enter, did the square slowly change, including building a large mosque near Jl Kauman. A large pavilion called "Kanjengan" was also built as the center of government (Jongkie Tio, p. 35). Meanwhile, development continued around Semarang Square, especially in the mid and late 19th century. New buildings, including the Post Office Building and the Telephone Office, stood majestically. There was also a large and luxurious hotel, namely the Du Pavilion Hotel (Hotel Dibyapuri), and around 1930, a large building was erected, namely the De Ja Vasche Bank building (Bank Negara Indonesia Now). ), behind it was also built a large and beautiful building, namely the Public Works Building,

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<sup>1</sup> Prospective Teacher , Universitas Negeri Semarang , [Risaandi@gmail.com](mailto:Risaandi@gmail.com)

Now The building has been demolished for shops. In 1921, as in the "Semarang on photos" collection, the square in front of the Kauman Grand Mosque looked spacious. Estimated open land The area covers more than 15 hectares, so it is often used for parades by Dutch Company troops. In that open space, In 1921, as in the "Semarang on photos" collection, the square in front of the Kauman Grand Mosque looked spacious (Pradhipta, 2014). It is estimated that the open land in the area was more than 15 hectares, so it was often used for parades by Dutch Company troops. A train track can be used in this open space to travel to the city or port of Semarang (Ratnawati, 2014). In 1968, the atmosphere had changed. As Semarang City progressed, the open space in the Alun-alun gradually became filled with shops. The growth of commerce in the area has been unstoppable since the Johar market was built in the 1930s, and in 1970, it was followed by Kanjengan, Yaik Permai market, Johar shopping center, and a row of other shops. As a result, the town square that was the pride of the people of Semarang City "vanished" (Kompas Tuesday, 11 February 2003, p. 18). The Alun-alun Semarang area is now a shopping complex that previously had high historical value, and the area is unique in terms of its physical aspect. Entering the period of independence, especially during the New Order, Semarang Square continuously experienced changes in function by establishing commercial land that existed at the expense of the Alun-Alun. Even though the Alun-alun has disappeared, the people of Semarang still think it exists. This can be seen at events leading up to Eid, where there is always a ceremony called Dug Der, a typical Semarang crowd to welcome the start of the fasting month. From the background above, the formulation of the problem raised in this research is as follows: (1) What was the spatial planning in Semarang Square in 1967? (2) How did the spatial planning in the Semarang Square in 1972 change? (3) What was the impact of the change? What are the environmental and social aspects related to changes in Semarang Square? Based on the problem formulation that has been prepared, this research aims to determine spatial and social changes in the Semarang Square in 1967-1972. Thus, theoretically, this research study is also intended to provide knowledge and insight into society's spatial and social conditions and how changes are occurring in Semarang Square. Practically, it is hoped that this research can add to and complete the study of knowledge in historical science, especially City History.

### **Method**

This research discusses spatial and social changes in the Semarang square from 1997 to 1972. Judging from the targets to be researched, temporal historical research can be considered. Therefore, the historical method is relevant for describing the spatial layout and changes that

occurred in Semarang Square to improve the community's economic welfare (Wardah, 2014). This research was carried out through the process of extracting information from people who are historical actors, where they are sources that can be categorized as primary sources. This research uses historical research, which relies on four stages of research, including: (1) Data Collection (Heuristics), namely collecting traces of the past or activities to find sources, including documents, literature studies and interviews; (2) Criticism Sources, activities to assess, test or select historical traces to obtain sources that are correct, original and relevant to the study being discussed, (3) Data analysis (interpretation, namely the historian's efforts to combine selected historical facts according to chronological and causal relationships (causality), (4) Presentation of data (Historiography), namely imaginative reconstruction of the past based on data obtained through a process of heuristics, verification and interpretation (Alian, 2012; Sanusi, 2013; Eman, 2011).

### **Results and Discussion**

Based on the research conducted, it was found that the spatial planning in Semarang Square in 1967 started from a point that had an important role for the people of Semarang City, namely the existence of traditional markets such as Pasar Johar and the Kauman Grand Mosque, not just as a place for buying and selling. However, the market is more related to life and social culture conceptions. The history of the Johar Market began a century ago, namely around 1860. Previously, this market was a Krepyeng market. Krempyeng market appears on the east side of the square. The existence of the Krempyeng market ultimately defeated the three city markets, which had previously survived for many years. An open space in the form of a square supports the existence of the Krempyeng market. With the Krepyeng market, religious and state ritual activities in the square began changing to the meaning of secular and daily life.

Ultimately, the Dutch government decided to build a market on the east side of the square (Source: Wijanarka 2007, 128). The existence of the market accommodates economic activities, and actors can also achieve other goals. Thus, it can be said that traditional markets can be a place for economic activity, social interaction, and a means of recreation, both in the market atmosphere and unique merchandise products. The things described above can be said to be a benchmark for how much influence the growth of community economic activity has on the development or changes in the spatial layout of Semarang Square. The Semarang Square area was originally an irregular rectangular shape, then developed into a trapezoidal shape. This occurred as a consequence of changes that adapted to the needs of the city's

economic activities at that time. In subsequent developments, North Alun-Alun was used as a bemo terminal, and South Alun-alun became the only public open space during the old order. From the Bemo terminal, the East side of the South Square was used to build the Yaik Market, which at that time was still a one-story building, and modern shops began to appear in the Kanjengan complex. This is by the contents of the Letter of Agreement on Thursday, February 18, thousand nine hundred eighty-two, which explains that between the limited liability companies PT. " Sarana Dwipa, "domiciled in Semarang with the Semarang Level II Regional Government, an agreement has been entered into whereby the Semarang Level II Regional Government is the holder of management rights over a plot of land, the former Colt Ya'ik base area, locally known as Jalan H. Agus Salim, an area of approximately five thousand five hundred square meters (+\_5,500.m2). The future of a region depends greatly on the role of the relevant rulers.

In Alun-alun Semarang, especially in the pre-colonial period, namely the early Regent (in Kanjengan) named Tumenggung Suro Adi Menggolo, was able to maintain the existence of the Alun-alun as a large square in front of the Regent's Hall, as a symbol of Javanese rulers as well as a place of communication between Regent with his people. During the colonial period, the Alun-alun's boundaries were truncated and bordered by Bodjong Street. The concept of the square shape, which was originally square, then became trapezoidal. At that time, the local authority (Regent) could not prove its existence, let alone its power. This event was the starting point for the change in the Alun-alun area from its initial function, namely the government (Khrisna, 2008, p. 63). The clash of development orientations here is defined as economic interests versus historical heritage influencing changes in Semarang Square. During the New Order era, the role of the government was vital in controlling activities in urban areas, only looking at the needs of society in general and considered beneficial for the government; the existence of parties with mutual interests gave rise to a debate between the government and the private sector.

This can be seen from the Suara Merdeka article, which the author quotes as follows: "Johar and Yaik Markets averaged 1.8 million per month, which was quite a lot at that time. This creates a polemic between the private sector, investors, and the government. so projects emerged, such as the construction of Yank market stalls and a parking lot, which was inaugurated in 1972" (Source: Suara Merdeka, Monday 14 July 1969). Based on the data above, it can be concluded that the circulation of money in the former Alun-alun area is quite significant. Thus, stimulating the growth of economic space impacts the development of sectors that support or strengthen economic activity. Therefore, the function of the Alun-alun

is expanding, and one of the ways to do this is by sacrificing the Semarang Alun-alun. The rapid development in the Semarang Square area in 1967-1972 left several urban problems or an impact on the consequences of modernization development. The modernization process does not always show encouraging things, but it also has bad excesses that must be borne or sacrificed. This is no exception in all cities in any part of the world. What often becomes a victim of rapid development is environmental conditions. The problem of development in the capital city of Central Java to welcome the booming year of development in Central Java is an effort that cannot be denied that it can cause environmental impacts. The closure of the entire Alun-alun square has caused the area around the Alun-alun to experience flooding when heavy rain falls frequently and floods during high tide, which is made worse by the abnormality of the Semarang River to the east because it is often used as a dumping ground for solid waste and household waste. Another bad effect that is felt as a result of making the Alun-alun area and the area around the Alun-alun the commercial center of Semarang City in particular and Central Java, in general, is the problem of pollution (Source: an interview with Hadi Subiyanto, 14 February 2013).

### **Conclusion**

The layout of Semarang Square before the New Order consisted of the Semarang Grand Mosque and Johar Market. During its history, especially during the New Order era of 1967-1972, the Semarang Square area experienced changes. The changes that occurred only prioritized economic needs by sacrificing Semarang Square to be turned into a shopping complex. This change was based on several Agreement Letters issued and legalized by the government then. The change occurred when the government center (Kanjengan) was transformed into a Yaik market shopping complex. This change occurred due to the government's lack of firmness in preserving cultural heritage objects (the square). The social impact caused by the change in Semarang Square is the development of market modernization. The development of various activities or community activities such as trade, buying, and selling at that time triggered an increasing flow of money in the community. Associated with this phenomenon is the emergence of social diseases such as crime, prostitution, begging, and homelessness. Social disease is a cause-and-effect relationship in the region's rapid growth of crowds. Apart from that, the appearance of slum corners, such as tin or cardboard houses, also indicates the presence of vagrants or homeless people. For this reason, the government's role is needed to overcome this problem; one way is by rehabilitating and providing skills.

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